



Metro
America's Best

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

News

December 9, 2010

Kim Upton/Marc Littman

Metro Media Relations

213.922.2703/213.922.2700

metro.net/press/pressroom

mediarelations@metro.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro will Offer Free Rides to Students for School-Sponsored Activities

The Metro Board voted today to allow students from public and private schools in Los Angeles County to ride Metro for free to and from school-sanctioned field trips and activities during non rush-hour periods. The goal is to encourage school field trips, even during this time of stretched educational budgets.

"Schools throughout Los Angeles County are struggling with severe budget challenges and cutting field trip transportation means less opportunity for students to take advantage of museums, programs and events outside school buildings," said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board member Antonio Villaraigosa, who introduced the motion.

The new program will not increase Metro operating costs or reduce revenue.

"Because Metro buses and trains have unused capacity during school hours, making free transit available to students is a win-win policy," Mayor Villaraigosa said.

Prior to implementation, Metro staff will determine guidelines for student eligibility, designate days and hours for the program, determine eligible school-organized activities and identify responsibilities of participating school districts or individual schools. Schools will contact Metro to "It's so important that teachers continue to pursue enriching educational opportunities off campus, even when school funds are tight," said Metro Board Chair and L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe. "We want our kids to get the best possible education and it's our hope that this new program will help."

###

Editors Note: "Metro" should be used when referring to this agency.

Metro-234 (General)